

**Idaho FY 2004-2005 Enhancing Education Through Technology
Title II-D Competitive Grant Abstracts**

Meridian School District #02 - \$70,000

*Providing Quality Technology Software at Kindergarten:
Upgrading and Purchasing New Waterford Software*

As a district facing Idaho Improvement Plan status for Students with Disabilities Reading, it is critical that the Meridian School District provide targeted learning software for reading. This software must be differentiated to assist low performing students in reaching academic goals and to enable the district to get third graders at reading grade level by 2006 per state code. The state provided learning software, Plato, does not reach down to kindergarten. Other Kindergarten reading software programs don't have the versatility, motivation, report capacity, or quality of Waterford. Our current Waterford platform is old and either must be updated, and in some cases, purchased, or it soon will not be usable.

Pocatello School District #25 - \$69,661

Project FastForward to Success

The FastForward to Success project will be implemented at Irving Middle School of the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District, and two partnering schools. This project will improve student academic achievement in reading at Irving, specifically, since this school has not made Adequate Yearly Progress in reading for two years. Teachers and principals will receive high-quality, on-going, sustained professional development in the utilization of FastForward computer-based software to target students who are below proficient in reading. The result of this project will be an increase in the number of students at the reading proficiency and advanced levels of the Idaho Standard Achievement Test.

Bear Lake School District #33 - \$39,492

Brighter Writers

Brighter Writers is a project intended to improve the written literacy skills of 3rd through 5th grade students in the Bear Lake School District. Written communication is a lifelong skill opening doors in educational pursuits, personal relationships, business opportunities, and nearly any way imaginable. The third to fifth grade students of Bear Lake School District need a jumpstart in developing this powerful, creative tool. The "Brighter Writers" goal is to empower students with knowledge, skill and practice in grammar, spelling, and the conventions of the English language, and provide them with a framework and process for creating powerful written works.

Plummer/Worley #44 - \$70,000

Fluency The Bridge to Reading Comprehension

Imagine “viewing” any of the following arrangement of letters: **apple, ball, dog, or cat**. How quickly did you recognize the letters were familiar words?...**You are a fluent reader.**

Now, imagine a student not being able to instantaneously visualize the meaning of these simple words. How frightening and frustrating it must be?...**Over half of the students at Lakeside Elementary are not fluent readers.**

Many of our students at Lakeside Elementary are not fluent readers; therefore, the **Bridge to Reading Comprehension Project** is designed to increase student reading achievement by engaging in quality professional development, and implementing a technology fluency reading program.

Basin School District #72 - \$70,000

Enhancing Student Achievement through a Successful Implementation of ISIMS

The Basin District never established a policy to upgrade its computers. Five years ago the district received a grant and bought about forty computers, and three years ago the district decided to build its computers. Practically speaking, these computers are obsolete and must be replaced. This year the district purchased twenty-two “ISIMS capable” computers for staff, and upgraded the network infrastructure. The implementation of ISIMS is progressing; however the next step is to implement the curriculum component, Orion. The district must upgrade its student computers and continue its infrastructure work. Additionally, intensive professional development for staff will be required.

Swan Valley #92 - \$63,205.00

Read Out Loud!!

Read Out Loud is a research-based project that will improve our students’ reading proficiency, while providing teachers with enhanced opportunities to integrate technology into their reading and language arts curriculums. Our project will utilize paired reading, echo reading, choral reading, and reading with talking books, as well as interactive reading/language arts CDs and web sites as avenues to provide support for less fluent readers, while enhancing proficient readers’ skills. By increasing students’ proficiency in reading, we will affect proficiency in all other curricular areas. Simultaneously, teachers will receive professional development via a bi-monthly ‘Team Time’.

Bonneville School District #93 - \$39,492

Reaching Every Emergent Reader Every Day

Bonneville Joint School District No. 93 requests funding for new computers and upgraded early reading intervention software that reflects the latest findings of scientific research, diagnostic and screening tools, and on-line services and reports. The first goal of this project is to improve student academic achievement in the area of reading readiness for kindergarten emergent readers through the effective integration of technology into curricula and instruction. The second goal is to expand the ability of classroom teachers to reach each student every day utilizing individualized curriculum software.

Vallivue School District #139 - \$70,000

New Horizons

The primary purpose of this EETT sub-grant is to provide the infrastructure and training necessary to successfully implement the state-provided I-PLN (Idaho Plato Learning Network) computer-based instructional system to improve student achievement in the district. Upon approval of this grant application, Vallivue will be able to provide the equipment necessary to make our computer network operational throughout the entire district; provide teachers with the training necessary to implement the system; and provide students with computer-based remediation to improve achievement as measured by the ISAT and IRI test scores.

Grace Joint School District #148 - \$70,000

Idaho Student Information for Student Success (ISISS)

ISIMS provides expanded opportunities for parental involvement in student academic success. ISITS standards outline specific technological competencies for teachers K-8 to better prepare students for high school educational opportunities and success.

ISISS provides a vehicle to intertwine ISIMS and ISITS in such a way that teachers K-12 receive substantial, ongoing professional development opportunities in technology use for integrated classroom teaching and classroom management practices, including the promotion of a web environment for increased parent/teacher involvement in a student's academic progress. A substantial by-product of ISISS includes improved student access to upgraded computer capabilities at all grade levels.

Cassia County Joint District #151 - \$70,000

Computers for PLATO Orion Curriculum Intervention to assist with the implementation of the Burley Junior High School 'School Improvement' Plan

The intent of the grant is to purchase a portable lab of computers to provide the necessary technology resources for **PLATO Orion Standards and Curriculum Integrator**. The district has already purchased PLATO Orion Standards and Curriculum Integrator. The concern is now having enough computers to accurately and successfully implement the program. One of our hardest hit schools is Burley Junior High School.

The second component of this grant addresses the need for more computer access to accurately assess and evaluate student achievement. **Burley Junior High School** administers over 2100 tests for the various ISAT assessments during each testing session. The non-availability of computer access during these testing sessions places undue constraints on the students that utilize these computers for intervention and remediation. Each testing session occupies the computer labs for five weeks, a total of 15 weeks of interrupted instruction. This grant would provide computer access to these students year round without interruption due to the testing sessions.

Orofino Joint School District #171 - \$70,000

Rally for Reading

“Rally for Reading” is a research-based staff development program which focuses on providing training and technology tools so teachers of students with disabilities can monitor and review student reading achievement and adjust reading instruction. This collaborative approach to reading improvement provides an environment where teachers learn to integrate technology to improve student reading achievement with support from a technology integration specialist. Technology is integrated into reading instruction when electronically generated data is used to plot student progress, plan and execute instructional interventions, and report results. All stakeholders—students, teachers, parents, and community—are better served when technology tools are used to improve the reading skills of students with disabilities.

West Side School District #202 - \$69,851

Individualizing Instruction Through Technology

The West Side School District is compelled to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. Using technology to provide instruction and remediation based on a student's individual need is paramount in our efforts to meet NCLB requirements. Additionally, robust teacher training, regular teacher collaboration, and effective data analysis will support our efforts to individualize instruction successfully.

Through this grant, we will fund a PLATO software lab and train teachers in using the program effectively. Additional components include: training teachers in spreadsheet programs to allow for more comprehensive data analysis, and providing opportunities for teacher collaboration.

Grangeville Joint School District #241 - \$70,000

Math View

In a rapidly expanding global market, mathematics has come to the forefront for today's students to remain competitive. Joint School District #241 (JSD #241) sees clearly the powerful ways in which technology can complement the need to strengthen our students' abilities to acquire the proper mathematical skills necessary to compete and excel in today's demanding market.

In an effort to strengthen our existing mathematics curriculum and instruction, JSD #241 has purchased new curricular materials. Although valuable, these materials limit instruction to small groups. **Math View** will utilize calculators, projectors and hand-held aids to enhance whole group instruction.

Jefferson County Joint School District #251 - \$70,000

Kids First

Project **"Kids First"** will tie together our district's goals of: implementing differentiated instruction in the regular classrooms, choosing a district wide standards-based math adoption, and utilizing the Idaho Plato Learning Network (IPLN) in order to raise student achievement. The **"Kids First"** project will provide technology integration instruction for classroom teachers and administrators throughout the district. It will also give access to necessary technology resources to help the students of School District 251 increase academic growth as they work toward mastering the Idaho State Achievement Standards.

Coeur d'Alene School District #271 - \$70,000

Waterford Early Reading and ISIMS Staff Development

Part of our EETT project is designed to increase the reading achievement of kindergarten students through the utilization of Waterford Early Learning software. Waterford engages students in individual, computer-based phonics activities on a daily basis to ensure reading success.

Secondly, our EETT project is intended to supplement state funding for the ISIMS implementation by providing adequate staff development for all impacted personnel. We will utilize grant funds to pay teachers stipends to attend initial training prior to the start of the school year. Grant funds will offset the costs of this effort for approximately 600 certified staff.

Lakeland Joint School District #272 - \$70,000

LINK LAKELAND

- The LINK LAKELAND project will replace the existing frame relay LAN and fractional T-1 Internet bandwidth access with a less expensive, high-speed, wireless LAN and Internet bandwidth access solution.
- LINK LAKELAND will allow each school site to fully participate in the ISIMS and Plato projects, and web based textbook resources.
- LINK LAKELAND will allow administrators, staff and teachers to fully utilize the technology tools made available with ISIMS, PLATO and various web based curriculum collaboration, teaching and training opportunities
- LINK LAKELAND will allow students to utilize technology tools to improve academic achievement and technology literacy.

Post Falls School District #273 - \$70,000

Reading and Language Skills Plus

The goals of this project are to improve student success in reading and language skills and to provide instructors with strategies to improve instruction in these two areas. The project will provide critical professional development opportunities for instructors in grades 4-8, focusing on using technology to improve reading and language instruction. The middle school reading instructor will utilize laptop computers containing tutorial software with her students. English instructors will receive updated equipment to effectively access ISIMS information and utilize data in instructional planning. Recognizing the parent as the primary educator in a child's education, parents will receive training to support student learning and using email capability for home-school communication.

Salmon School District #291 - \$69,980

Reaching Higher with IPLN: Improving Student Achievement through Implementing IPLN to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed Ability Classrooms

Reaching Higher with IPLN: Improving Student Achievement through Implementing IPLN to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed Ability Classrooms is a project that will expand the implementation of the proven and effective courses and curricula designed by PLATO to help students in grades 6-12 reach challenging academic standards. The project will increase accessibility to technology needed to effectively use IPLN in our highest needs schools by using grant funds to purchase dedicated IPLN computer labs for each school. Teachers will be trained to differentiate instruction through designing IPLN learning paths for students based on each student's ISAT score and classroom performance.

Oneida County School District #351 - \$70,000

Learning Connections

Oneida School District will create greater “Learning Connections” by implementing a two-phase plan to successfully introduce the Idaho Student Information Management System (ISIMS) and Idaho PLATO Learning Network (I-PLN) at Malad Elementary. The two phases include installation of a wireless network to increase connectivity for ISIMS and I-PLN at Malad Elementary and installation of workstations meeting I-PLN requirements to improve the capacity of teachers to integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction. We strongly believe the implementation of ISIMS and I-PLN will indirectly improve student learning, enhance data-driven decision making, and increase effective parent communication at Malad Elementary.

Pleasant Valley Elementary School District #364 - \$30,000

Connecting Students to the World with Technology

The impetus of this project proposal lies in the need for students of Pleasant Valley School District No. 364 to meet state and national standards and improve overall academic achievement. The ability to fully participate in the ISAT and ISIMS is one aspect the District must address in meeting these goals. In addition, the District has a vision to connect students in our small, isolated school to the larger world through the use of technology in order to expose them to other cultures, ideas and resources. Implementation of this project will provide an avenue for attaining each of these objectives.

Homedale Joint School District #370 - \$70,000

Meeting the Future

Project “Meeting the Future” will help equip the Homedale School District to participate effectively in the Idaho Student Information Management System (ISIMS), thus providing data and knowledge needed to make the best decisions for individual students. This project will provide professional development and technology integration modeling throughout the district, will afford district-wide access to and appropriate utilization of technology resources to enable effective participation in (ISIMS), and will increase effective communication among stakeholders through electronic technology – all in the right place and at the right time to enhance education through technology.

Fruitland School District #373 - \$68,284

Technology Expansion Project

The purpose of this grant is to expand training and technology to support the Fruitland Middle School teachers as they strive to ensure no child is left behind. The focus of this grant will be on purchasing technology that will increase the ability of teachers to teach, increase student technology literacy, and improve reading scores. The teachers will be provided with interactive hardware and software and the training required to use technology to improve student performance.

Avery School District #394 - \$70,000

Academic Excellence and Real World Science

Imagine a group of energetic and technology savvy 4th grade students collecting water samples from a local stream near their school. While their scientific probes are collecting real time data, they start questioning local scientists about the implications of the fish population due to the fresh timber harvest that occurred five miles up stream. In times of standards based education and testing, we must not forget the importance of real-world learning. The **Academic Excellence and Real World Science Project** collaborates with scientists of two very small rural schools to provide academic success and **EXCITEMENT** to the science curriculum.

Weiser School District #431 - \$69,581

Engage, Assess & Achieve

Teachers in Weiser Middle School and Park Intermediate School will engage all students in responding to classroom discussions and assessments by utilizing the **Classroom Performance System** (CPS). Information on a computer can be clearly projected on a large classroom screen for all students to interact. The CPS will promote an environment of 100% participation by allowing every student to respond to each question with a hand-held remote keypad. Data is instantaneously available and can be anonymously posted. Teachers can immediately identify student strengths and weaknesses and change lessons spontaneously to promote student mastery.